



# PRESS RELEASE

## House National Security Committee Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 19, 1996

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### **CHAIRMAN SPENCE RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN THE U.S. ARMY**

*Chairman of the House National Security Committee, Floyd D. Spence (R-SC), issued the following statement regarding recent allegations of sexual assault and misconduct in the U.S. Army:*

"I am very disturbed by the recent allegations of sexual assault and abuse at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, and at other installations. These allegations represent serious criminal offenses that go far beyond the scope of sexual harassment. Such actions on the part of Army trainers and leaders in positions of trust demonstrate an unacceptable abuse of authority.

"Based on the numerous recently-disclosed allegations, I requested that the Army brief members of the Committee on National Security on the recent cases of sexual abuse, the Army's investigation into these cases, and its overall sexual harassment policy and prevention program. As the committee of oversight, it is critical that we help ensure that all appropriate actions are aggressively pursued.

"After learning of the Army's efforts in the on-going investigation, I am confident that the Army leadership is committed to determining how these serious violations occurred and how to preclude such abuses in the future. At this point in time, the Army appears to be conducting a thorough investigation, including an aggressive Army-wide review of its sexual harassment awareness programs and policies.

"The National Security Committee will closely monitor this situation in the months ahead to ensure that the Army's continues its investigation and that those service members who violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I also encourage the Department of Defense and each of the other services to fully examine their sexual harassment policies and prevention efforts. There should be no ambiguity in the message to service members — the American military will *not* tolerate sexual harassment."

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